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## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Applicants request that Examiner amend the application as follows:

After the section “Brief Summary of the Invention” and before the section “Detailed Description of the Invention,” please insert the following:

### **Brief Description of the Drawings**

Fig. 1: ICU deaths in different strata of first 24h-APACHE II and TISS scores. APACHE denotes Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation. TISS denotes Therapeutic Intervention Scoring System. Filled bars represent deaths in the RIS group and hatched bars the deaths in the IIS group.

Fig. 2: Kaplan-Meier cumulative survival plot for in-hospital survival. The large figure displays results from all patients ( $P = 0.01$ ); the small figure displays long-stay ( $\geq 5$  days) ICU patients only ( $P = 0.018$ ). Bold lines represent the IIS group and thin lines the RIS group. Patients discharged from the hospital were considered survivors. P-values were obtained by logrank (Mantel-Cox) significance testing.